

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

DCI - Proposed Remarks at Presentation of NIDSM to Pete Aldridge

FROM:

William M. Baker *WMB*  
Director, Public Affairs

EXTENSION

27676

NO.

PAO 89-0099

DATE

24 March 1989

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

ER

24 MAR 1989

*pl*

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DCI

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*WMB*

STAT

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PAO

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*Civil**No cards*

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*for file*

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DCI  
EXEC  
REG

24 March 1989


JUDGE:

RE: Your proposed remarks at  
the presentation of the NIDSM  
to Edward C. (Pete) Aldridge, Jr.  
28 March 1989 3:00 p.m.  
DCI Conference Room

You are scheduled to present the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal to Edward C. (Pete) Aldridge, who headed the national security space program from 1981 to 1988 and served as Under Secretary and then Secretary of the Air Force. Aldridge, known as "Mr. Space," is recognized as the nation's foremost authority and spokesman on the importance of space programs to our national defense.

Your proposed remarks are attached and have also been placed on cards (see opposite). Background information on Aldridge will be included in the package forwarded by Protocol.



 Bill Baker

Attachments:  
As stated

STAT

PROPOSED REMARKS  
BY  
WILLIAM H. WEBSTER  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
AT THE  
PRESENTATION OF THE NIDSM TO  
EDWARD C. (PETE) ALDRIDGE  
MARCH 28, 1989

IT IS A PLEASURE TO PRESENT THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL THIS AFTERNOON TO  
EDWARD C. ALDRIDGE, JR., FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND TO THE COUNTRY IN THE NATIONAL  
SECURITY SPACE PROGRAM FROM 1981 TO 1988.

PETE ALDRIDGE IS KNOWN AS "MR. SPACE" -- AND WITH GOOD  
REASON. AS UNDER SECRETARY AND LATER AS SECRETARY OF THE AIR  
FORCE, HE WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE NATION'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY AND  
SPOKESMAN ON THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE  
PROGRAMS TO OUR DEFENSE.

PETE'S TALENT AND VERSATILITY -- COMBINED WITH A BACKGROUND  
IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING -- HAVE ALLOWED HIM TO SUCCEED IN A  
NUMBER OF CHALLENGING POSITIONS, BOTH IN AND OUT OF  
GOVERNMENT. AFTER RECEIVING A MASTER'S DEGREE FROM THE GEORGIA  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN 1962, HE BEGAN HIS CAREER IN THE  
MISSILE AND SPACE DIVISION OF DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY. IN  
1967, PETE JOINED THE STAFF OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF

DEFENSE FOR SYSTEMS ANALYSIS, LATER SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF THE STRATEGIC DEFENSIVE DIVISION. HE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF SENIOR POSITIONS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BEFORE BEING NAMED UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE IN 1981 AND SECRETARY IN 1986.

DURING PETE'S LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAM, THIS NATION SAW MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITIES. HE DIRECTED THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATION OF NUMEROUS SATELLITE SYSTEMS. AND UNDER HIS STRONG LEADERSHIP, GOVERNMENT AND CONTRACTOR TEAMS WERE ABLE TO KEEP ON-ORBIT SATELLITE SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL WELL BEYOND DESIGN LIFE. THIS WAS CRITICAL IN LIGHT OF EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE FAILURES AND THE SPACE SHUTTLE "CHALLENGER" DISASTER IN JANUARY, 1986.

PETE WAS THE ARCHITECT OF THE NATION'S LAUNCH RECOVERY STRATEGY DURING THE MOST TRYING TIMES IN U.S. SPACE HISTORY.

HE CHAMPIONED THE PURCHASE OF TITAN-4 EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLES TO PROVIDE AN ASSURED LAUNCH CAPABILITY THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT OUR SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM. HIS FORESIGHT AND INITIATIVES ALLOWED OUR SPACE PROGRAM TO RECOVER FAR MORE RAPIDLY THAN WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

DESPITE FISCAL LIMITATIONS AND EXPANDING REQUIREMENTS, PETE WORKED DILIGENTLY WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND WITH ME TO IDENTIFY CRITICAL GAPS AND FRAME APPROACHES FOR OUR NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAM. HIS BRIEFING TO PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING SUPPORT FOR A MAJOR INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS DEFENSE-RELATED AND TREATY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE WORKED WITH PETE OVER THE YEARS ARE AWARE OF HIS NATURAL LEADERSHIP ABILITY, HIS FINE JUDGMENT, AND HIS INTEGRITY. YET WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF HIS PROFOUND SENSE OF PATRIOTISM. PETE HAS ANSWERED THE CALL TO RETURN TO PUBLIC

SERVICE SEVERAL TIMES, AND EACH TIME HE HAS MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THIS COUNTRY.

TODAY WE HAVE A NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAM THAT IS SECOND TO NONE. AND THE MAN WHO IS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT IS "MR. SPACE," PETE ALDRIDGE. HIS RECORD IS ONE OF EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AND VISION, AND IT ADDS A DISTINCT CHAPTER TO THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR SPACE PROGRAM FOR SOME THREE DECADES.

PETE, IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I PRESENT YOU WITH THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

AND NOW, IF YOU WILL JOIN ME WHILE THE CITATION IS READ.